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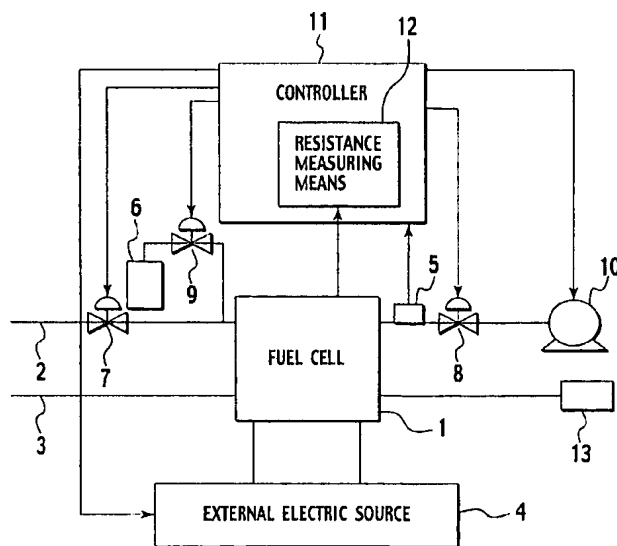
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(54) Title: **FUEL CELL SYSTEM**



(57) **Abstract:** A fuel cell system and a method of operating a fuel cell system are disclosed wherein an external electric source (4) is provided to apply current to a fuel cell (1), comprised of a polymer electrolyte membrane-electrode catalyst complex having a polymer electrolyte membrane (21) sandwiched between a fuel electrode (24A) and an oxidant electrode (24B) and separators (26, 28) formed with flow channels (27, 29) to supply fuel and oxidant to the polymer electrolyte membrane-electrode catalyst complex, and operative to change a direction in which current is applied to the fuel cell (1).

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